

Message

From: Hagler, Gayle [Hagler.Gayle@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/13/2023 5:41:52 PM
To: George, Ingrid [George.Ingrid@epa.gov]; Gullett, Brian [Gullett.Brian@epa.gov]
CC: Hays, Michael (he/him/his) [Hays.Michael@epa.gov]; Phelps, Lara (she/her/hers) [Phelps.Lara@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: EOC Spot Report: Region 5, East Palestine Train Derailment, Update #21, East Palestine, OH, NRC#1359227

Hi Brian and Ingrid,
Sharing for awareness...I added highlighting to Kelly's note. No action needed now.
Gayle

From: Dipolt, Kelly <Dipolt.Kelly@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 1:36 PM
To: Snyder, Emily <Snyder.Emily@epa.gov>; Hagler, Gayle <Hagler.Gayle@epa.gov>; Harrill, Alison <Harrill.Alison@epa.gov>; D'Amico, Louis (he/him/his) <DAmico.Louis@epa.gov>
Cc: Jones, Samantha <Jones.Samantha@epa.gov>; Strong, Jamie <Strong.Jamie@epa.gov>; Ryan, Shawn <Ryan.Shawn@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EOC Spot Report: Region 5, East Palestine Train Derailment, Update #21, East Palestine, OH, NRC#1359227

Hello POCs,

Thank you all for your help so far on the response. I don't have a new request yet; however, ORD has offer support with the development review of sampling plans. The below are areas that have been identified by R5 as possible ares of support. These are very broad but wanted to give you a heads up.

- risk assessment,
- data management,
- data review and interpretation,
- SME with respect to agricultural and perhaps food issues,
- real time air monitoring/sampling technology

I've also included the latest spot report for awareness.

Thanks,

Kelly

From: Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2023 1:44 PM
Subject: EOC Spot Report: Region 5, East Palestine Train Derailment, Update #21, East Palestine, OH, NRC#1359227

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EOC Spot Report: Region 5, East Palestine Train Derailment, Update #21

EAST PALESTINE, OH, NRC#1359227

US Environmental Protection Agency
Report Date: 3/12/2023

Overview: On February 3, an approximately 50-car Norfolk Southern train derailment and fire occurred in the town of East Palestine, Ohio. Eleven cars contained hazardous materials including vinyl chloride. Due to the potential for a boiling liquid expanding vapor explosion (BLEVE), Norfolk Southern performed a vent and burn of five vinyl chloride tanks. The City of East Palestine and Columbiana County declared a State of Emergency and local officials ordered a mandatory evacuation of approximately 1,500 to 3,000 residents between February 5-8. The water in Sulphur Run near the derailment site was grossly contaminated. Sulphur Run flows into Leslie Run, which flows into Bull Creek, then into North Fork Little Beaver Creek, then into Little Beaver Creek, which empties into the Ohio River. However, these surface waters are not the source for the municipal water supply in East Palestine, nor believed to be the source for private wells. Norfolk Southern has shipped 2,563 tons of solid waste and 3,549,265 gallons of contaminated liquids.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions and Roles: On February 4, an Ohio EPA (OEPA) State OSC arrived on-scene. Within hours of the derailment, staff from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) staff were on the scene to support the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigation. A Unified Command Group (UCG) was subsequently established with the City of East Palestine, Columbiana County Emergency Management Agency, US EPA, OEPA, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Center for Disease Control/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and Norfolk Southern. Additionally, there are multiple Cooperating and Assisting Agencies at the State and local level. A Unified Command Post in Columbiana, OH is supporting multi-agency coordination. 337 cumulative Assessment for Chemical Exposure (ACE) Surveys have been completed. Representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service visited affected wetlands and stream around the site. A meeting with agricultural stakeholders in Ohio was held on March 9, 2023. CDC/ATSDR assisted in engagement of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Norfolk Southern commenced track removal and excavation on March 4, 2023. Vapor suppressant is being used to limit odors and vapors. Norfolk Southern deployed additional perimeter air monitors at 8 locations around the work zone. Ballast was removed from 900 feet of line on March 6. The underlying clay layer was scraped to prepare for confirmation soil sampling to verify contaminated soils are removed. Excavated materials are staged in covered stockpiles to reduce odors prior to transport for disposal.

Surface Water Monitoring

Routine Organics Detection System monitoring for VOCs by the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) continues to report non-detects. The monitoring is to ensure the water supply is suitable for use by downstream users.

Drinking Water Sampling

East Palestine is served by a public water system that sources its water from five wells, all of which are beyond 1.4 miles and upstream from the train derailment site. In the operational period from March 4 to March 7, 4 potable private well samples were taking in PA by PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) and Norfolk Southern. OEPA requested that CDC/ATSDR develop comparison values of PFAS compounds in drinking water.

EPA Actions and Roles: This incident falls under US EPA jurisdiction, and US EPA is the lead Federal OSC. As of the operational period ending at 7 am ET on March 7, 2023, US EPA assigned 45 in-person and 31 virtual personnel from Region 5, Region 3, and the Environmental Response Team (ERT), as well as 26 Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractors to the response. Region 5's Regional EOC (REOC) is fully activated, Region 3's REOC is partially activated, and the US EPA HQ EOC is partially activated.

On February 21, US EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order compelling Norfolk Southern to clean up the derailment site and surrounding community under US EPA oversight. Norfolk Southern has agreed to comply with US EPA's order to conduct all necessary actions associated with the cleanup of the derailment.

CMAT

The Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) vehicle operated by US EPA is continuously sampling for vinyl chloride and butyl acrylate around the site during excavation operations. The Portable High Throughput Integrated Laboratory Identification Systems (PHILIS) labs are analyzing track soil samples for volatile organic compounds (including vinyl chloride and acrylates) and region 3 farm soil samples for semi-volatile organic compounds.

Public Affairs

On March 9, 2023, the EPA Regional Administrator Debra Shore participated in a hearing before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. The hearing was also attended by the NS CEO, Ohio EPA, Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO), and Beaver County Department of Emergency Services. On February 21, a Joint Information Center (JIC) was established to ensure coordinated incident messaging. The Call Center had taken 358 cumulative calls as of 5 pm on March 10, 2023. The Community Welcome Center received 79 visitors between March 4 to March 6. A townhall meeting and open house were held in Negley, OH on March 4. A 24 hr Emergency JIC line was established to address urgent press and community inquiries. A Resource Fair was held at the East Palestine High School on March 9, 2023 to provide access to resources and answer questions from the community.

Air Monitoring and Air Sampling

US EPA's Community Air Monitoring network of 29 stations remained operational 24 hours per day, monitoring for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), carbon monoxide (CO), lower explosive limit (LEL), and hydrogen sulfide (H2S). Readings continue to be below site screening levels except for periodic detections of elevated dust. Dust control measures are being actively implemented. As of the operational period ending at 7 am ET on March 7, 2023, 600 cumulative indoor air screenings have been conducted in OH and PA. Additionally, 155 cumulative air samples have been collected. EPA START has responded to 4 odor complaints to date, no detection of VOC's were found. The TAGA sampling unit reported elevated levels of butyl acrylate late in the day on March 9, 2023. Follow-up

monitoring by a mobile air monitoring group investigated the detections in accordance with an Operations Decision Tree to determine appropriate follow-up actions.

Soil and Sediment Sampling

Impacted ballast under the south tracks have been excavated. Excavation of soils underlying the south main tracks resumed on March 9, 2023. Soil sampling is underway in the community following an approved sampling plan. NS continued excavation and post-excavation sampling as of March 11, 2023. Residential, commercial, and agricultural soil sampling efforts began pursuant to a workplan approved on March 7, 2023 and continued on March 10, 2023. A Quality Assurance Project Plan was approved on March 9, 2023. The PA DEP and EPA are working to sample soil of 5 farms in PA. The PA DEP, EPA and Farm bureau collected shallow soil samples from priority farms in PA on March 9, 2023 and completed agricultural sampling from the priority list on March 10, 2023. As of the operational period from March 4 to March 7, 2023, samples of burnt soil residues were collected for dioxin analysis from soils being excavated under the south tracks. Confirmation soil samples to ensure contamination has been removed are collected at the soil excavation under the south main tracks. EPA samples are being analyzed by PHILIS. Odor complaints during excavation work are responded to by a dedicated response team immediately. Representative wipe samples were collected for dioxins analysis from rail tanker cars prior to scrapping. Scrapping of remaining tanker cars (now released from NTSB hold) continued. Final scrapping of rail bed under the south tracks began on March 9, 2023 to prepare for confirmatory sample collection.

Media Interest: High

Media Links:

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/03/12/homes/norfolk-southern-east-palestine-home-values/index.html>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/train-derailments-are-common-but-few-reach-the-level-of-east-palestine-crisis/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/mar/11/norfolk-southern-air-testing-cteh-ohio-train-derailment>

<https://www.wkbn.com/news/local-news/east-palestine-train-derailment/village-gathers-in-protest-of-norfolk-southern-response-to-train-derailment/>

The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed

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